

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

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R 230438Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4660

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CH, TW, HK

SUBJECT: PEKING - TAIPEI AND TEN AMNESTIED "KMT WAR CRIMINALS" IN
HONG KONG

1. SUMMARY: PEKING'S CURRENT PEACEFUL OFFENSIVE VIS-A-VIS TAIWAN
HAS THUS FAR FAILED TO PROMPT A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM GRC
AUTHORITIES. THE TEN RECENTLY-AMNESTIED AND ELDERLY "KMT WAR
CRIMINALS" ARE STILL IN HONG KONG AWAITING GRC PERMISSION TO ENTER
TAIWAN WITH THE PRC GAINING THE PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE LOCALLY.
END SUMMARY

2. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA HAVE REDUCED LOCAL PRESS
ATTENTION TO THE CASE OF THE TEN RECENTLY-AMNESTIED "KMT WAS
CRIMINALS" WHO ARRIVED ON HONG KONG APRIL 14 AND ARE STILL AWAITING
GRC PERMISSION TO ENTER TAIWAN. HOWEVER, THE LOCAL MEDIA HAVE KEPT
THE PLIGHT OF THE MEN IN THE PUBLIC'S EYE TO PEKING'S PROPAGANDA
ADVANTAGE.

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3. THE LOCAL PRC--OWNED PRESS INCREASINGLY HAS FOCUSED ON THE TEN'S PRAISE OF THE TREATMENT AND ATTITUDES OF COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES, A THEME WHICH IS INTERWOVEN WITH THE OLD EX-OFFICERS' EXPRESSIONS OF SURPRISE AND DISMAY AT THE ATTITUDE OF TAIWAN AUTHORITIES, WHICH REMAINS STAND-OFFISH AND APPARENTLY SUSPICIOUS.

4. THE NON-COMMUNIST PRESS, INCLUDING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES, AND LOCAL TV STATIONS, ALSO HAVE REPORTED THE TEN'S CRITICISM OF TAIWAN AUTHORITIES' INTRANSIGENCE, PARTICULARLY THE RELEASEES'S DENIALS OF BEING SURROUNDED BY PRC REPRESENTATIVES AND ASSERTIONS THAT NO REPRESENTATIVE -- OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL-- OF THE GRC HAS MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO CONTACT OR ASSIST THEM.

5. THE PRESS HAS NOTED THAT THE TEN HAVE REJECTED AS "HUMILIATING" AND "INSULTING" THE INDIRECT YET IMPLICIT SUGGESTION FROM PRO-KMT GROUPS THAT THEY APPLY AS "REFUGEES FROM THE MAINLAND". (HONG KONG'S PRO-KMT PAPERS HAVE ALL CARRIED THE APRIL 17 STATEMENT BY THE KMT ALIGNED HONG KONG-KOWLOON RELIEF ASSOCIATION SPOKESMAN THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS WILLING TO ASSIST REFUGEES IN HONG KONG FROM THE MAINLAND AND THAT GAVE THE ASSOCIATION'S NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND HOURS OF BUSINESS.) SEVERAL OF THE RELEASEES HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN DISCHARGED FROM THE MT ARMY, EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT TAIWAN WOULD HAVE THEM GO THROUGH STANDARD TIME-CONSUMING PROCEDURES, AND WERE AWAITING TAIWAN AUTHORITIES TO COME TO THEIR ASSISTANCE. (IN AN INTERESTING SIDE DEVELOPMENT, PRC REPRESENTATIVES WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HAVING AN HKG SPOKESMAN PUBLICLY STATE THAT THERE IS NO OFFICIAL GCR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COLONY. THIS FOLLOWED PRESS REFERENCES STATING THAT THE MEN SHOULD CONTACT A SPECIFIC KMT ORGANIZATION.)

6. MEANWHILE, THE TEN HAVE APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED SEVEN-DAY EXTENSIONS OF STAY BY HONG KONG IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS PERMITTING THEM TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG UNTIL APRIL 28.

7. TAIPEI'S STRATEGY IS CERTAINLY NOT GAINING POINTS LOCALLY FOR THE GRC. A STORY CARRIED IN THE SUNDAY EDITION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS REPORTED THAT GRC AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXIT PERMIT FOR TRAVEL TO THE US FOR THE WIFE OF A GENERAL SHEN TSE AFTER PEKING AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED AMNESTY FOR THE REMAINING (KMT WAR CRIMINALS". THE GENERAL, NOT AMONG THE TEN IN HONG KONG, REPORTEDLY IS NOW LIVING IN CHEKIANG. PEKING HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TEN SEEKING TO ENTER TAIWAN, ALL OF THE 293 RECENTLY AMNESTIED MEN HAVE BEEN REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND RESETTLED IN CHINA. CROSS

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